

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1303

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TZ

SUBJECT: ZANZIBAR ANNOUNCES PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

1. TANZANIAN VICE PRESIDENT ABOUD JUMBE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ZANZIBAR WILL HOLD ELECTIONS FOR ITS REPRESENTATIVES TO THE TANZANIAN PARLIAMENT. JUMBE'S ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT THE ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD IN EARLY OCTOBER 1977, FOLLOWING ELECTIONS OF PARTY OFFICIALS AND PRIOR TO THE CONVENING OF PARLIAMENT. HOWEVER, THE CCM DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR ZANZIBAR HAS SAID THAT THE ZANZIBAR ELECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WILL NOT BE HELD UNTIL AFTER OCTOBER BECAUSE THE PARTY ELECTIONS WILL NOT BE FINISHED UNTIL JUST BEFORE PARLIAMENT CONVENES. (FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE ZANZIBAR AND TANGANYIKA FORMED THEIR UNION, PARLIAMENT WILL CONVENE ON ZANZIBAR.)

2. TEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WILL BE ELECTED FROM ZANZIBAR, ONE IN EACH OF ITS TEN DISTRICTS. EACH REGION WILL ELECT ITS OWN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, THERE WILL BE NO ISLAND-WIDE VOTING. ALL CANDIDATES MUST BE PARTY MEMBERS AND MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT EACH LEVEL (DISTRICT, REGIONAL, NATIONAL). THE CCM DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EXPECTS

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THREE CANDIDATES WILL BE SELECTED TO COMPETE FOR EACH POSITION.

3. THE 5 ZANZIBAR REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN WILL ALSO BE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. THE ZANZIBAR REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MAY APPOINT UP TO 32 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND THE PRESIDENT MAY APPOINT UP TO 20 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM ZANZIBAR. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER ZANZIBAR'S TEN ELECTED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

WILL BE CONSIDERED PART OF THE 20 "APPOINTED" BY THE PRESIDENT
OR WILL BE CONSIDERED PART OF THE 106 TO BE ELECTED. (THE 106
ELECTED MEMBERS HAVE PREVIOUSLY ALL COME FROM THE MAINLAND.)

4. COMMENT: THESE WILL BE THE FIRST ELECTIONS HELD ON THE
ISLANDS FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT SINCE BEFORE INDEPENDENCE.
THE THREE ELECTIONS HELD PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE, IN JANUARY 1961,
JUNE 1961, AND IN 1963, WERE HOTLY CONTESTED AND AROUSED A
GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST AND ENTHUSIASM AMONG THE ISLANDS'
INHABITANTS. ALTHOUGH THE AFRO-SHIRAZI PARTY WON AN ABSOLUTE
MAJORITY IN THE LAST TWO ELECTIONS, DISTRICTING WAS GERRYMANDERED
BY THE TWO MINORITY PARTIES IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE ASP DELEGATES
WERE DENIED THE STATUS OF MAJORITY PARTY. THE ASP LEADERSHIP
AND ITS FOLLOWERS FELT CHEATED AND FELT THAT THEIR POSITION
WOULD ONLY DETERIORATE FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE. THIS FEELING OF
FRUSTRATION WAS ONE OF THE MAJOR FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE
1964 REVOLUTION, WHICH CAME ONLY ONE MONTH AFTER INDEPENDENCE.
IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT KIND OF ENTHUSIASM THE
FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT GENERATE.
CONDITIONS ARE ADMITTEDLY DIFFERENT AND THE ASP IN ITS PRESENT
STATUS (MERGED WITH THE MAINLAND PARTY, TANU, LAST FEBRUARY TO
FORM THE CCM - THE SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY OF BOTH THE MAINLAND
AND THE ISLANDS) IS THE ONLY CHOICE. THERE HAS TO DATE BEEN NO
VISIBLE REACTION TO JUMBE'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ELECTIONS WOULD
BE HELD AND IT IS PROBABLE THAT THEY WILL BE CARRIED OFF IN A
LOW-KEY MANNER.
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SHIPPY

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